

MILITARY COLLECTOR & HISTORIAN

Journal of the
Company of Military Collectors & Historians

VOL. VI. No. 1

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 1954

Copyright, 1954, by the Company of Military Collectors & Historians

BLAND'S VIRGINIA HORSE: THE STORY OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL LIGHT DRAGOONS

by Burt Garfield Loescher

The history of the First Continental Light Dragoons begins in June 1776, when Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia authorized the formation of a volunteer cavalry battalion, of six troops, for the defense of that commonwealth. The unit was formed and commanded by Major-Commandant Theodorick Bland, who had taken an active part in the expulsion of Lord Dunmore, the former royal governor; its other officers were respected patriots and land owners. The captain of the fifth troop was Bland's cousin, twenty-year-old Henry Lee, soon to be famous as "Light Horse Harry."¹

The Colonial leaders originally had considered cavalry an expensive and unprofitable arm. Washington himself had sent home the one available volunteer regiment, the so-called Connecticut Light Dragoons, in somewhat cavalier fashion that July—and missed them shortly thereafter when the British easily enveloped his position on Long Island. Now, aware of this new battalion, composed of Virginians, and therefore presumably of good riders and well mounted, he asked Patrick Henry for its transfer to his forces. After considerable argument among the enlisted men and a good deal of persuasion by their officers and Governor Henry, the regiment finally consented to serve outside its native state.

Bland's Virginia Horse, as it was then called, was not fully equipped, but Washington was urgent, and December 1776 saw it on the march to join them.

It reported to him at Morristown where he had encamped, after his sudden Trenton-Princeton campaign, to maintain pressure on the British forces remaining in

northern New Jersey. Here, after a bleak, hungry, and "barefoot" winter, the regiment was mustered into the regular Continental service on 31 March 1777, under the authority granted Washington by Congress to raise "3,000 light horse."² Major-Commandant Bland was promoted to colonel, all officers received commissions from Congress, and the battalion was redesignated the First Continental Light Dragoons. Each dragoon, upon enlisting for three years or the duration of the war, received twenty dollars and the promise of a hundred acres of land upon discharge. Because of this bounty, there seems to have been little reluctance to change from State to Continental service.³

Campaign of 1777

The First Continental Light Dragoons were stationed near Bound Brook, about a mile in advance of the intrenched position occupied by the American army along the first range of the Watchung Mountains around Middlebrook. Small detachments scouted across the Raritan River toward the British forces in New Brunswick, ten miles away.

During the middle of May, Captain Henry Lee and his troop were temporarily attached to General Lincoln's brigade in the vicinity of Bound Brook. Here it was so useful that Lincoln detained it, even after Bland had ordered Lee to Chatham to cover the extreme northern flank of the American line. He released the troop only when Howe sailed from New York on 23 July on the confused and confusing voyage which finally brought him to Head of Elk in Chesapeake Bay.

The First Dragoons then moved southward with the American army to defend Philadelphia. As the army paraded through that city, a troop of the Dragoons led its march.

At Wilmington the following day, Washington be-

¹ The three basic sources for the first part of this article are Charles Campbell, ed., *The Bland Papers of Colonel Theodorick Bland, Jr.*, 2 vols., Petersburg, Va., 1843; Martin I. J. Griffin, *Stephen Moylan*, Phila., 1909; and John C. Fitzpatrick, ed., *Calendar of the Correspondence of George Washington . . . with the Officers*, 4 vols., Wash., 1915 (entries under "Bland," "Cavalry," "First Continental Dragoons," etc.). They will not be cited hereafter. Also extensively used, and not fully cited, was Fitzpatrick, ed., *The Writings of George Washington*, 39 vols., Wash., 1931-44 (cited as *Writings*).

² *Writings*, vol. 7, 103, 337-8, 366; Resolves of Cont. Cong., 12 and 27 Dec. 1776.

³ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register of the . . . Continental Army*, Wash., 1914, *passim*.

gan his reconnaissance of the newly-landed British forces. Among the patrols sent out by the four Continental cavalry regiments was Captain Lee and his troop of forty-three men. In the Regiment's first recorded action, Lee cut off one of the British foraging and scouting parties, capturing twenty-four prisoners whom he immediately brought to Washington, arriving at ten o'clock that night. Washington thereafter frequently used that aggressive young cavalryman for special assignments.⁴

During the Battle of Brandywine, the Regiment, weakened by detachments to various brigade and divisional commanders for escort and courier duty, covered Painter's Ford on the right of the American army. American reconnaissance was poorly organized, but it was Colonel Bland himself who discovered the British envelopment of the American right flank in time to enable the Americans to change front to meet it and convert a probable rout into a stubborn withdrawal.⁵

During the interval between this battle and Howe's entry into Philadelphia, Captain Lee and four of his Dragoons were dispatched to burn some flour mills before they fell into enemy hands. Washington's aide, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton, joined them as a diversion from staff duties. Crossing the Schuylkill, they accomplished their mission, but were caught by elements of the British 16th and 17th Light Dragoons while recrossing the river. Hamilton became separated from Lee during the skirmish. However, all escaped.⁶

Before the Battle of Germantown, on 4 October, the First Continental Light Dragoons were honored by Washington's request that Captain Lee's troop be detailed as his bodyguard during the coming action. Bland and the remainder of his unit served with portions of the three other Dragoon regiments under the newly appointed "Commander of the Horse," Brigadier General Count Casimir Pulaski. Attempting to cover the final American withdrawal, they were ridden over by British cavalry and stampeded back through the American infantry, further compounding the confusion. Captain Lee and his troop remained near the scene of the battle, maintaining contact with the British forces and gathering estimates of British losses.⁷

⁴ Thomas Boyd, *Light Horse Harry Lee*, New York, 1931, p. 26; *Writings*, vol. 9, 148; Christopher Ward, *The War of the Revolution*, New York, 1952, 334 ff.

⁵ *Writings*, vol. 9, 205 ff.; Ward, *op. cit.*, 347-50.

⁶ Boyd, *op. cit.*, 27-8; Lee, *op. cit.*, 16-18.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 28-30; *Writings*, vol. 9, 311; Ward, *op. cit.*, 369-71.

The rest of the campaign saw detachments of the Regiment reconnoitering along the New Jersey bank of the Delaware, harassing enemy foraging parties and foraging for the American army. As usual, Lee did well. For three weeks in December, his troop operated with Morgan's riflemen in a series of raids.

Campaign of 1778

Because of the scarcity of forage, Washington decided to billet the Dragoon regiments near Trenton, New Jersey, for the winter. There they were scattered across the countryside, seldom in units larger than a single troop, wherever they could obtain shelter and food for themselves and their horses.

Throughout the winter, the First Regiment was distinguished by the exploits of Lee and his troop from their quarters at Scott's Farm, six miles from the summit of Mount Joy in Pennsylvania. Lee's post being the most advanced, he had constant opportunities to harass British foraging detachments, and "Light Horse Harry" and his men were soon receiving praise in the American press.⁸

A troop of Dragoons in Bland's Regiment, seldom having more than 25 men and horses fit for duty, has since the first of August last, taken 124 British and Hessian privates, besides 4 commissioned officers, with the loss of only one horse. This gallant corps is under the command of Captain Lee, Lieutenant Lindsay and Cornet Peyton, whose merits and services it is hoped, will not be passed unnoticed or unrewarded.

Finally, Lee became such a nuisance that Simcoe, an outstanding British partisan officer, was ordered out from Philadelphia with his own Loyalist Queen's Rangers and a part of the British 17th Light Dragoons to suppress him. Simcoe's command left Philadelphia on the night of 19 January, two hundred strong. By taking a roundabout twenty-five mile route which by-passed Lee's sentries, the British arrived at Scott's Farm as dawn was breaking over the snow-clad slopes. Fortunately, one of Lee's men saw them in time, and the farmhouse doors were immediately barred. Though Lee had only two officers, a quartermaster sergeant, and four dragoons with him, the rest of his troop being absent on a foraging expedition, he posted them so as to guard all entrances and repulsed two attacks killing or wounding eight British. When the rebuffed attackers tried at least to carry off Lee's horses from the barn, Lee called for a volley, shouting "Fire away, men. here comes our infantry; we'll have them all . . ."; then led a counterattack. Completely bluffed, the British spurred away, without looking back to check the truth of

⁸ Boyd, *op. cit.*, 30-32; *Writings*, vol. 10, 9, 32, 234, 247, 270; *New Jersey Gazette*, 14 Jan. 1778.



Officer and Trooper of Bland's Horse: A reconstruction based upon contemporary documents and objects. The officer wears a French dragoon helmet similar to one painted by James Peale in his 1778 portrait of Washington. the other man a jacked leather cap with iron bands, of local manufacture, suggested by a cap in the collection of Member Waverly P. Lewis.

Lee's assertion. The only American casualty was Lieutenant Lindsay, shot in the hand.⁹

In February, Lee was ordered to Delaware to collect forage and supplies, including droves of cattle, for the starving troops at Valley Forge. His troop had become very popular and much in demand for missions requiring enterprise and skill.¹⁰

The First Dragoons saw their second action of the year in March, when Washington directed Pulaski to send a troop of cavalry to reinforce Wayne on a foraging expedition within the British lines. Selecting a troop of the First Dragoons, Pulaski took command of it in person, joining Wayne at Haddonfield, near Camden, New Jersey. That night, a British force, reported as 3,000 men, slipped across the Delaware and attacked the Americans, but was repulsed. Pulaski charged repeatedly at the head of his dragoons with considerable effect, especially when the enemy was preparing to recross the river. His bravery and intrepidity, as well as that of his horsemen, were heartily commended by Wayne in his official report.¹¹

On 7 April 1778, the Regiment lost "Light Horse Harry" and his troop. Congress had rewarded them by designating them as the nucleus of a new picked corps, "Lee's Legion." Lee himself was promoted to major.¹²

The First Dragoons, like the other mounted regiments, played a very minor part throughout the spring of 1778. Split up into many tiny detachments to "watch the movements of the British," they were not involved seriously during the Battle of Monmouth. After that conflict, they followed the retreating British to Sandy Hook, but do not appear to have harassed them with any effect.

This campaign at an end, the First Dragoons were stationed at their old post at Bound Brook to observe the British forces in New York and intercept the attempts of New Jersey loyalists to smuggle food into that city. Later, the Regiment was quartered for the winter at Winchester, Virginia. Most of the men's enlistments were up, and it was hoped that leave to spend the winter with their families would encourage them to reenlist.¹³

Campaign of 1779

This inducement had an effect just the opposite of

⁹ *Writings*, vol. 10, 321; Boyd, *op. cit.*, 30-31; John G. Simcoe, *Military Journal*, New York, 1844, pp. 33-38.

¹⁰ *Writings*, vol. 10, 467-8, 491-2, 513-4; Boyd, *op. cit.*, 32; Ward, *op. cit.*, 546-7.

¹¹ Harry Emerson Wildes, *Anthony Wayne . . .*, New York, 1941, 153-7.

¹² *Resolve*, Cont. Cong., 7 April 1778.

¹³ *Writings*, vol. 13, 351.

the one intended. Home looked too good. In March, the First Dragoons mustered only eighty men fit for duty. At this time the Regiment received orders assigning it to General Lincoln's army in South Carolina, but it was July before it was equipped and ready to march. That same month, Colonel Bland was placed in charge of the Saratoga "Convention Prisoners," Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Temple taking over the command in his place.

Joining Lincoln in time for his bungled attack on Savannah, Georgia, the Regiment took part in the assault of 9 October. The combined cavalry of the army under Pulaski charged vigorously in the center of the French-American line, attempting to penetrate between two redoubts and take the British fortifications from the rear. However, British fire was too effective. The attack failed completely and the Allies withdrew.¹⁴

Thereafter, the First Continental Light Dragoons and the Virginia infantry were detached to Augusta, Georgia, where they remained until the British approached Charleston in February 1780.¹⁵

Campaign of 1780

Ordered to the defense of Charleston, the First Dragoons—now commanded by Major John Jameson—arrived in early February. They were stationed with the rest of the American cavalry (altogether 379 officers and men) about twenty-four miles from Charleston at Bacon's Bridge across the Ashley River. Under General Moultrie, they were instrumental in removing the horses, cattle, wagons, boats, and other articles that would be of use to the British. This involved a number of brisk skirmishes. After Clinton began his investment of Charleston, the combined American cavalry fell back to Monck's Corner. Here, now numbering about 500 and commanded by Colonel William Washington, they were to guard the fords of the Cooper River and hold open a possible line of retreat for Lincoln's forces.¹⁶

Initially successful against Banastre Tarleton's ill-mounted British cavalry, the Americans were surprised at three o'clock of the morning of 14 April and completely routed. Part of the command escaped into the swamps and rallied north of the Santee River. There Lieutenant Colonel Anthony W. White joined them and

¹⁴ Ward, *op. cit.*, 692-4; Edward McCrady, *History of South Carolina in the Revolution, 1775-1780*, New York, 1901, pp. 404-19.

¹⁵ John Marshall, *Life of George Washington*, 5 vols., Phila., 1805, IV, 123.

¹⁶ McCrady, *op. cit.*, 420-81; see also Banastre Tarleton, *History of the Campaign of 1780-81*, Dublin, Ireland, 1787; Ward, *op. cit.*, 698 ff.

assumed command as the senior cavalry officer present.¹⁷

Collecting the scattered dragoons, White remounted them on the excellent horses available in the neighborhood, and then proceeded to attack the enemy's foraging parties on the south side of the Santee. After capturing one large party, he was surprised by Tarleton at Lenud's Ferry while awaiting boats and thoroughly defeated. While part of his command again escaped into the nearby swamps and swam the Santee, its strength was so reduced that it had to withdraw to recruit. Shortly thereafter, Charleston capitulated, and these remaining American dragoons withdrew into North Carolina.¹⁸

Here the few remaining troopers of the First Dragoons were incorporated into William Washington's Third Continental Light Dragoon Regiment. With this organization they shared in the hardships and glories of Greene's southern campaigns. Lieutenant Colonel White and the officers of the First Dragoons returned to Virginia, where Steuben was desperately trying to raise reenforcements for Greene's army. White hoped to recreate the First Dragoons, but there were too many obstacles in his way. The Virginia Assembly, for example, had passed a law limiting the price of horses for the cavalry at \$150,000 Continental (or \$150 hard money)—a sum that would not buy even the worst sort of crowbait.¹⁹

Campaign of 1781

Clothing and weapons were equally expensive, but White furnished money from his own pocket to enable his Regiment to take the field. By May, when Lafayette arrived to oppose Cornwallis, White had recruited 200 men, but it was the end of July before he had enough horses to mount them all—and he still had not procured enough arms and uniforms to put them into the field. However, on 25 June, he was able to send a small squadron of sixty men to Lafayette. These men were led by their troop commanders, White being so involved in trying to complete his Regiment that he did not get an opportunity to lead it during this campaign. Lafayette combined this one available squadron with the remnants of Armand's Legion cavalry (some forty horsemen) and about fifty riflemen into a temporary "legion" under Major William PcPherson. This unit normally operated in advance of the outnumbered

¹⁷ McCrady, *op. cit.*, 493-5; Ward, *op. cit.*, 701-2; A. M. W. Woodhull, *Memoir of Anthony Walton White*, Newark, N. J., 1882, p. 5.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Frederick Kapp, *Life of Frederick William von Steuben*, New York, 1859, pp. 410-8.



ANTHONY WALTON WHITE

Commanding 1st Continental Dragoons 1779-1780

This oft-published engraving is from a pastel portrait by James Sharples, who came to America in 1796 and traveled extensively through the country, painting as he went. The high collar, Cincinnati medal, and full-crested helmet place the portrait in the 1790's, possibly in 1799 when White was commissioned brigadier general of the emergency army. Although not Revolutionary, the helmet is interesting as showing the use of a white hair crest.

American forces, screening them and harassing the enemy.²⁰

Their first major action was on 26 July at Spencer's Ordinary with Simcoe's Queen's Rangers and some Hessian jaegers, who had been collecting cattle and burning American supplies above Williamsburg, Virginia. General Wayne, with Lafayette's approval, sent Colonel Richard Butler to intercept Simcoe. Butler marched all night, but still would have failed to overtake

²⁰ Institut francais de Washington, *Lafayette in Virginia: Unpublished Letters*, Baltimore, 1928, p. 15. See also H. P. Johnston, *The Yorktown Campaign and the Surrender of Cornwallis, 1781*, New York, 1881, pp. 37, 55.

Simcoe, if McPherson had not pushed ahead with the cavalry, fifty of the best-mounted dragoons carrying light infantrymen up behind them. Simcoe was surprised, but rallied and held off his attackers long enough to escape after a fierce hand-to-hand fight.

Both sides claimed the victory. Their losses were about thirty men each. First Dragoon casualties included one captain wounded, five privates killed, one private captured. The result of this affair was to make the British light troops somewhat less aggressive.²¹

The next engagement was at Green Springs, where Cornwallis nearly succeeded in mousetrapping Lafayette's entire force. The First Dragoons were with the American advance guard at the beginning of the affair and seem to have intervened to cover Wayne's eventual retreat. Lafayette thanked them in his general orders for their gallant part in the action.

During the subsequent siege of Yorktown, the First Dragoons served with Lauzun's Legion on Gloucester Point, blockading the British forces there (which included their old foes, Tarleton's Legion and Simcoe's Rangers).²²

Campaign of 1782-83

After the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, the First Dragoons were sent to South Carolina to reinforce Greene, then blockading Charleston. Arriving on 4 January 1782, Lieutenant Colonel White was transferred to the command of the Fourth Dragoons, Major John Swan succeeding him.

After a period of outpost duty around Charleston, the First Dragoons became a part of General Pickens' expedition to the Georgia frontier against an irregular band under a Colonel Waters and the marauding Cherokees. Lieutenant Colonel White, who had returned after taking part in Wayne's successful Georgia campaign, resumed the command of the Regiment. Once in Cherokee territory, White was detached on 24 September 1782 to destroy the Indian villages along the Chattahoochee River, then rendezvous with Pickens for the attack on Waters' base. White rejoined that same afternoon after successfully carrying out his mission. Unfortunately, Waters had been warned in time to escape to the British stronghold of Saint Augustine. However, an advantageous treaty was imposed upon the Cherokee tribes, and the First Dragoons returned to South Carolina late in October without the loss of a man.

This had been hard service, nevertheless, through

the hot months of the year, and the dragoons had a long sick list when they returned to Greene's camp. They had made their campaign without tents or camp equipment. When the small ration of bread they could carry in their saddlebags was exhausted, they lived on parched corn, potatoes, peas, and beef collected in the Cherokee towns. There was no salt available.²³

On 9 November 1782 the First and Third Continental Light Dragoons were consolidated into five troops commanded by Colonel George Baylor, the senior officer of the two regiments. Major Swan held the actual command, the other field officers being either sick or on furlough.²⁴

After the British evacuated Charleston in December 1782, Major Swan with his own command and the Fourth Dragoons were stationed at Combahee to observe the British at Saint Augustine, as well as for greater convenience in securing forage. Here the American cavalry remained until the spring of 1783, the combined strength of the three regiments falling to 200 officers and men.

On hearing that peace had been declared, half of the dragoons placed a Sergeant Dangerfield at their head and deserted in a body, seizing the horses of those of their comrades who would not join them. They had enlisted only for the duration of the war and had not been paid for months, but by this mutiny they forfeited the pensions which they had so courageously earned at the cost of so many hardships. If they could have endured a few weeks longer they would have been included in the order to furlough the troops until the signing of the definite articles of peace. The dismounted dragoons of the three regiments, who had been left behind at James Island with the Continental infantry, fared better. In July the long-awaited transports finally arrived and carried them northward to their homes.²⁵

Thus ended the career of "Bland's Horse," something of a personification of rugged American individualism. Posterity might well remember them for their exploits under "Light Horse Harry"; their charges under Pulaski; their assault, riding double, at Spencer's Ordinary; and for their grueling service as Indian hunters against the Cherokees.

²³ Hugh McCall, *History of Georgia*, Atlanta, 1909, p. 546.

²⁴ Heitman, *op. cit.* Kapp, *op. cit.*, 709, shows the duty strength of the First Dragoons on 15 Sept. 1782 as 12 officers (colonel on furlough), 7 sergeants and 7 corporals, 3 trumpeters and 65 dragoons. There were 95 troop horses. Seventy-seven officers and men were sick in hospital, 17 on detached service, and 16 on furlough or in captivity (of which 13 were officers).

²⁵ McCrady, *op. cit.*, 676, 702.

²¹ Lee, *op. cit.*, 299-300; Simcoe, *op. cit.*, pp. 212 ff.

²² Lee, *op. cit.*, 303 ff., 354-5.

DEVELOPMENT OF DESIGNS FOR SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

by W. E. Goodman, Jr.

Shoulder sleeve insignia can probably be considered as America's major contribution to the military uniform. Their design and symbolism are far more representative of the American commercial trade mark than they are military in character. While shoulder sleeve insignia do, in general, follow the basic rules of military heraldry, their designs frequently are more symbolic of the wearer's home area than they are of some martial accomplishment.

In terms of their design, the progress of shoulder sleeve insignia can be divided into three periods: World War I, the period from 1920 to 1940, and that from World War II to date. World War I represents the formulative stage, for it was at this time that shoulder sleeve insignia originated. Having no precedent, the designing of the insignia operated more or less on an individual basis. Each organization selected its own design without regard for other units, which led to a healthy independence and freedom from rubber-stamp patterns. It reflected the individual initiative of the units.

Whereas the independence of this period led to excellent designs, it also led to an overwhelming number of variations of each insignia, which apparently were freely worn. All designs had to be approved by GHQ in France, but thereafter anything that reasonably resembled the approved pattern was acceptable. Virtually all World War I insignia had as many variations in design as there were manufacturers, and, in addition to these commercial sources, regimental tailors seem to have turned out designs of their own as well. One example from this period, the Statue of Liberty worn by the 77th Division, can be seen in any number of variations, yet each one is basically of the same design, representing the manufacturer's conception of what it should be. Further to complicate these innumerable variations, several divisions added to the total by authorizing their organic units to adopt either a distinctive color scheme, a differently shaped background, or both.

The use of shoulder sleeve insignia during World War I was at first limited to combat troops of the AEF, but the popularity of the patches led to their being adopted by all troops. Units in the United States were not authorized such insignia, as official approval had to come from GHQ in France. But in spite of this limitation, many units in the United States went ahead and made up their own insignia in the expectation that

such approval would be granted upon their arrival overseas.

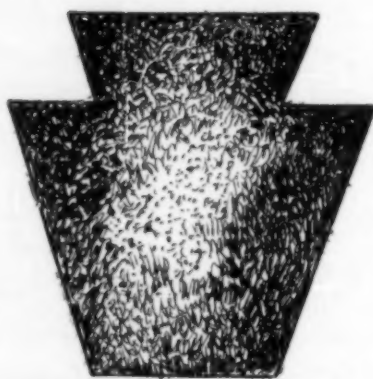
The second period (1920-1940) represents a leveling off. Designs became stabilized and the variations eventually disappeared. One of the controlling factors here was the small size of the army. Organizations of a size entitled to shoulder sleeve insignia became comparatively rare, and this aided the introduction of a new sort of device, the regimental or distinctive insignia, which soon became the more prominent of the two. The major contribution in this period to the development of shoulder sleeve insignia was the revision by the War Department of the designing system in the early 1930's. All multiple designs were ordered out, and in their place came a single insignia for each unit. The few new insignia adopted during this period resulted from independent design, as did their World War I predecessors.

Expansion of the army for World War II brought about the third period in the progress of shoulder sleeve insignia. It saw a new factor enter the field with major effect. This was the introduction of the embroidery machine into the manufacture of these devices. Prior to this time, shoulder sleeve insignia were made of felt, their devices being constructed by assembling several sections of colored felt. This method greatly restricted the design, since only relatively simple patterns could be attempted. The embroidery machine, however, completely revolutionized the process; with it no design was too difficult. At once a marked improvement in the devices appeared.

During World War I, with one exception, all shoulder sleeve insignia had been individualistic in design, and the devices selected bore no tie-in with the insignia of other commands. The only similarity that did exist resulted from the Corps (I to IX) adopting designs that suggested their number. The composition of troops making up a corps was such that the adoption of an insignia based upon a common home area or common achievements was not possible. A noticeable element in World War II design, on the other hand, was the tendency toward standardization. All armored units had the same insignia except for their individual number; base commands, as a rule, were bordered identically (red outer, white inner); and service commands adopted a blue and white geometrical pattern varying with their number.

(EMBROIDERY AND FELT) 21ST INF.9TH INF.
2ND DIVISION WWI

(STENCIL AND FELT)

17TH F.A.26TH DIV. WWI
(FELT)28TH DIV. WWI
(FELT)81ST DIV. WWI
(FELT)(EMBR. ON FELT) 84TH DIV. WWI84TH DIV. WWII (EMBROIDERED)

ARMORED DIVISIONS WWII



(EMBROIDERED)

W.E. GOODMAN JR.

Until the period of World War II, the unit preceded the design. Fully established, each command adopted some design that symbolized a distinctive characteristic.

However, during World War II, the reverse became true in the case of several divisions. For example, the 63rd Infantry Division was activated 15 June 1943, but

its design had already been approved by the Heraldic Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, on 27 March. Similarly, the 65th Infantry Division was activated 16 August 1943, its insignia approved 25 May; the 69th was activated 15 May 1943, its insignia approved 30 April; and the 70th had its insignia approved on the day of its activation, 15 June 1943. Other cases where the design preceded the division can be found in the 75th and 106th Infantry Divisions, and the 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions. A check of each design listed above shows definitely that the unit became tailored to the design rather than the design reflecting the division, as in times past.

Another innovation of World War II was the "tab." This feature usually consisted of an arc-shaped tab con-

taining lettering specifying the special task of the unit, such as "Airborne," "Mountain," and "Ranger." Utilizing these insignia, a very effective means was uncovered to provide additional credit to the wearer which added to his esprit de corps.

Since the war, new insignia have steadily appeared. If any policy can be detected, it shows a favorable trend toward a return to the unit preceding the design. A similarity can be noted in the insignia of the logistic commands, but even these show far more individuality than the World War II designs. Just what the future will hold cannot be foretold, but based upon popularity and interest, it seems evident that such insignia will remain as a part of the uniform for many years to come.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOOPED CARTRIDGE BELT

by Stanley J. Olsen

The replacement of paper by metallic cartridges at the close of the Civil War, brought about a need for a more convenient and efficient method of carrying ammunition so as to place it within easy reach of the soldier. The regulation "Civil War Type" black leather cartridge box was too clumsy and slow in supplying shells for the new breach loading rifles. The men using it were quick to remedy this fault by copying the ammunition belts of the civilian scouts attached to the frontier posts.

Civilian scouts and frontiersmen had found means of putting their cartridges within easy reach by constructing homemade leather belts with loops to hold their rifle and revolver ammunition. This is borne out in photographs of scouts like California Joe and Yellowstone Kelly, who are shown equipped with the forerunner of the non-regulation military belt that was soon to follow.

The first published account of the looped belt as used by the Army is to be found in General Anson Mills' story of his experience at Fort Bridger, Wyoming in 1866:

I turned in my muzzle-loading Springfields and equipped my two companies with the Spencers which, of course, had heavy metallic cartridges, Cal. 50. Our equipment consisted of the regular old-fashioned cartridge box for paper cartridges to be carried in tin cases inside the leather boxes, and were wholly unsuited for metallic cartridges. . . . So I devised a belt, which the post saddler manufactured out of leather, with a loop for each of the fifty cartridges. The men wore their belts around their waists, and they proved more comfortable and efficient than any other method of carrying cartridges.¹

¹ Anson Mills, *My Story*, Washington, 1918.

This method was patented by Mills as were most of his subsequent changes until his belt was perfected.

The War Department had also decided that the old tin-lined leather boxes, designed for carrying paper cartridges, were unsuited for the new metallic ammunition. It was casting around for new ideas but wasn't ready to accept officially the radical change that the looped belt offered. The main objection was that the cartridges in a looped belt were exposed to weather and dust.²

Also the Ordnance Department, at the time, was concerned with using up the vast stores of surplus equipment that was on hand from the recent conflict. An *Ordnance Memorandum* of this period describes one of the suggestions offered for trial as follows:

Means of Carrying Metallic Cartridges

Infantry Accoutrements — Cartridge Boxes.

The Board examined several plans and expedients for adapting the service cartridge box to the use of the metallic cartridge. The large number of .58 and calibre .69 cartridge boxes on hand that can be so adapted precludes the necessity for any new cartridge box of special construction. . . . the board recommends that the cartridges be packed in wooden blocks as well as in paper boxes to determine relative suitability of these modes of packing.³

In 1872 the Government was still trying out variations of the proposed change in the old style box but with little success.⁴

² *Annual Report of the Secretary of War*, 1875-76, 3 vols., Washington, 1876, III, *passim*.

³ *Ordnance Memoranda No. 9*, Washington, 1868.

⁴ General Orders No. 60, War Dept. 1872. *Ordnance Memoranda No. 13*, Washington, 1872.

THE LOOPED CARTRIDGE BELT & ITS ADAPTION BY THE U.S. ARMY

1866

NON-REGULATION - MANUFACTURED BY ARMY SADDLERS



(LEATHER)

1874

REGULATION



*Black leather
Brass fittings*

leather

(CANVAS SLIDING LOOPS)

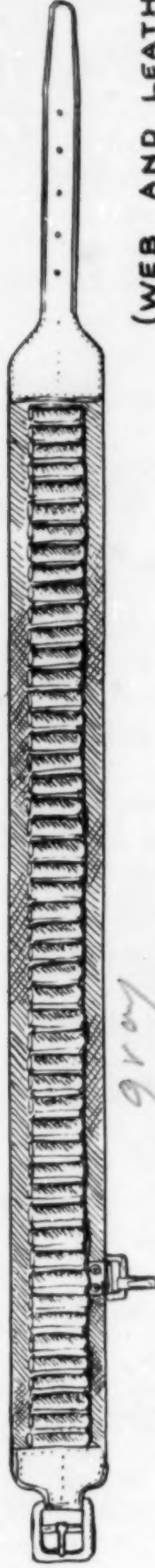
1876



Brown Canvas or brown leather

(CANVAS AND LEATHER)

1885



gray

(WEB AND LEATHER)

1887



gray, blue or tan

(WEB)

TYPES OF BUCKLES



REGULAR & MILITIA
(CAST BRASS)

OFFICER
(PRESSED BRASS)

REGULAR & MILITIA
(BRASS WIRE)



In the meantime the troops weren't entirely satisfied with their new "scouting belts." They found that acid in the leather acted on the copper in the cartridge cases, producing a verdigris, which caused the shells to stick in the belt or, after firing, in the chamber of the gun.⁵

The troops of General Nelson A. Miles had already remedied this problem by covering the leather with canvas and making the loops of the same material.⁶ Belts of this kind have been picked up on the Custer Battlefield and several are preserved at the Custer Battlefield Museum. A Cheyenne Indian who took part in the battle states: "In all of the belts taken from the dead men, were cartridges. Some belts had only a few left in them. In others the loops still contained many, an occasional one almost full."⁷

The regulation method of carrying ammunition in 1874 called for a pouch carrying 40 rounds of carbine cartridges, and two sets of sliding double loops of leather. The front loops held 12 shells and the back loops held 8. A smaller pouch (about the size of a Civil War type cap box) was provided to hold the pistol ammunition. The sliding loops were designed and submitted by Col. William B. Hazen of the 6th Infantry and were named for him. A vest to hold cartridges was also submitted to the Ordnance Board of 1874 but was rejected.⁸

The *Report* of the Secretary of War for 1875-76 requested that "A thimble-belt of regulation length to contain 40 rounds of cartridges caliber .45, and of as heavy leather as sample furnished. Also a similar belt to the above, the thimbles and side of the belt to which they are attached lined with a sized canvas, and of same leather in weight as cavalry loop." One sample was manufactured.⁹

General Anson Mills states that the looped belts were . . . submitted to every equipment board organized between 1866 and 1879, but so wedded were the authorities to the use of ancestral methods that no board even made favorable mention of my invention. Meanwhile the Cavalry and Infantry on active service against the Indians adopted these belts of this character, fabricating them, themselves.

Becoming known at Washington, two Ordnance inspectors were sent to inspect the equipment of the armies of General Terry and General Crook, confronting the hostile Sioux in 1876. They reported it was impossible to compel the soldier on the frontier to use the regulation McKeever cartridge

boxes, and recommended the manufacture of a uniform belt at arsenals. The Chief of Ordnance approved, and thirty thousand sewed canvas belts were made at Watervliet Arsenal.¹⁰

These belts were not entirely satisfactory either, because of the loops enlarging and ripping.

Finally, in 1878, after years of pleading, General Mills succeeded in getting the Army to accept his newly perfected woven web belt which carried fifty .45-70 cartridges. These first belts were woven on hand looms, but a means to mass produce them entirely by machine was soon to follow. The Government arsenals didn't produce these belts. Instead they were purchased from contractors.

In 1879, 200 cartridge belts, caliber .50 and 7,509 cartridge belts, caliber .45 were manufactured, but 4,296, caliber .45 cartridge boxes were also manufactured and only 77, caliber .45 loops (Hazen's) were manufactured.¹¹

A gray woven belt of either 45 or 50 loops (depending on length), fitted with leather straps and a buckle was the official cavalry cartridge belt in 1885.¹² This and the earlier canvas type were replaced by completely woven web models of 50 loops in the late 1880's. The adoption of the .30 caliber "Krag-Jorgensen" rifle, model 1892 allowed the doubling of the number of loops by establishing a second row superimposed on the first. Belts for both calibers, along with bandoliers of similar patterns, were produced in dark blue, gray and tan up through the Spanish-American War.

The buckles shown in the plate are those for use with the .45-70 woven web belt. The officer's buckle is from the author's collection and the belt on which it is fastened has a leather holster and leather sling straps.

The regular use of the looped cartridge belt in the U. S. Army was brought to a close with the issuance of the model 1903 U. S. Springfield Rifle. Since this weapon was designed to be charged with five cartridges in one motion, woven pocket type belts were provided for clip-joined cartridges. Although the use of looped belts of various models encompassed about thirty years, its use for depicting the U. S. Cavalry in theatrics and illustration has been observed to spread from as early as 1830 to the 1920's. This is apparently more of a tribute to its eye appeal than the producer's concern for history.

⁵ Mills, *op. cit.*

⁶ Nelson A. Miles, "Indian Campaigns," *The Century Magazine*, Vol. XLII, No. 3, July 1891.

⁷ T. B. Marquis, *A Warrior Who Fought Custer*, Minneapolis, 1931.

⁸ *Ordnance Memoranda No. 18*, Washington, 1874.

⁹ *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1875-76*, III.

¹⁰ Mills, *op. cit.*

¹¹ *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1879*, 3 vols., Washington, 1880, III.

¹² *Ordnance Memoranda No. 29*, Washington, 1885.

THE PLATES

NEW YORK RIFLE CORPS, 1809-1815

(Plate No. 81)

The dress of the American rifleman: "Hunting shirt & leggings, picturesque costume of the Woodsmen," was once called "the veritable *Emblem of the Revolution*."¹ Certainly this characterization was borne out by the large number of rifle companies formed in the Volunteer Militia of all the States in the early 19th century. And the great majority of these companies adopted as their dress a modified version of the fringed hunting shirt and leggings, and the wide-brimmed hat, made famous by the riflemen under Morgan, Stephenson, Cresnap and the others.

Since the State of New York sent the War Department no separate returns of its rifle companies prior to 1815, it is difficult to estimate how many existed. In 1807, however, the Legislature authorized a battalion of Volunteer Riflemen to be formed in each Infantry brigade, and when the new Republican Governor, Daniel D. Tompkins, took office in January 1808 he took steps to "promote the Establishment of this useful Corps."²

Some rifle companies had existed earlier, notably the Republican Greens of New York City, commanded by Francis McClure and composed of Irishmen of the same political leanings as Governor Tompkins. One of the Governor's early acts was to expand this company into the Battalion of Riflemen, a step which bears out the idea that riflemen were not popular with the conservative Federalist administration, at least in New York State.

The year 1809 saw the real beginnings of the New York Rifle Corps. The Militia Act of 29 March did not specify the uniform to be worn by the rifle companies forming all over the state, but by 27 July 1809 the Governor had made up his mind on the matter:

The uniform for the Rifle Corps which I have concluded to adopt generally, is Green frocks with Yellow fringe. Green pantaloons and black gaters, round

hat with sash and feather, of any colour which may suit the taste of the company. There would be no material objection to helmets or Caps, in the City instead of Hats.³

Already (27 May 1809) Tompkins had authorized the Trojans Greens of Troy to adopt "Green short coats, with black facings, trimmed with yellow cord, caps of the description heretofore worn by the Company, with green or white underclothes."⁴ There were other exceptions to the general rifle dress, but by and large most of the new companies formed 1809-1812 adopted it, the standard description being:

Green frocks and pantaloons with yellow fringe, black gaiters, round black hats ornamented with yellow buttons, black loops, and short green feathers.⁵

This fringed, green uniform was not peculiar to New York. It was illustrated by Svinin on Philadelphia riflemen in 1811. It is the dress of the rifleman on the arms of Delaware. With red instead of yellow fringe, it is the uniform of the Maryland Riflemen as painted by Thomas Ruckle in 1814. Examples of it can be found as late as the Civil War.

The New York Rifle Corps was at this period armed in part with the U. S. Rifle Model 1803, which was widely issued to the Militia of the several states, although many of the weapons doubtless were privately owned (as shown in the plate). It is also clear that on active service in 1812-1815 some riflemen were issued muskets and cartridge boxes.⁶ By that time the elements of the Corps which had volunteered for extended active duty were formed, with Francis McClure as colonel, into the 1st Regiment of New York Riflemen. It served until the end of the war.⁷

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.
Frederick P. Todd

¹ By George W. P. Custis; see *MC&H*, III, 23.

² *Public Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins . . . Military*, I, 177-8, 183-4.

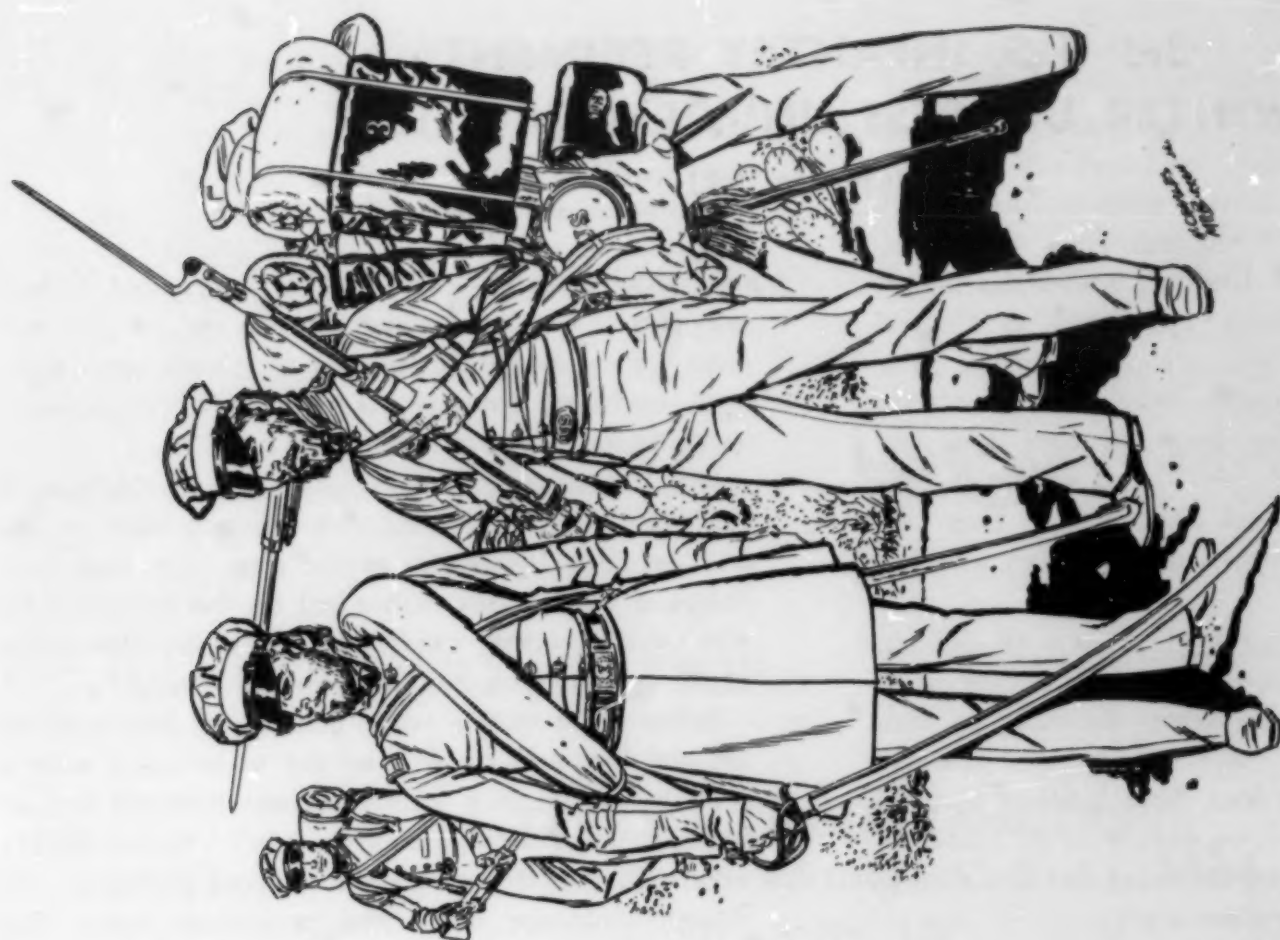
³ *Ibid.*, II, 211.

⁴ *Ibid.*, I, 222.

⁵ *Ibid.*, I, 229, 232, 238, 259, 286, 309-10, etc.

⁶ *Ibid.*, III, 137.

⁷ R. S. Guernsey, *New York City and Vicinity During the War of 1812-'15*, 2 vols., N. Y., 1889, I, 102-3.



Winter Uniform Uniforms
 Company Officer Corporal First Sergeant
 3rd U. S. Infantry Regiment, 1846-1851



Officer and Riflemen
 New York Rifle Corps, 1809-1815

3rd U. S. INFANTRY REGIMENT WINTER UNDRESS UNIFORM, 1846-1851

(Plate No. 82)

The "Regulations for the Uniform and Dress of the Army of the United States," published as General Orders No. 36, 21 June 1839, are of next to no value in describing what the Regular Infantry wore on campaigns in the 1840's. The details of such dress and equipment can be gleaned only from a variety of War Department publications and archives, and from the pictures of two or three contemporary artists who followed the armies.¹

It should be recalled that in those days all clothing for enlisted men was made up at the U. S. Arsenal in Philadelphia from cloth and kersey furnished by contract.² Undress uniforms were manufactured there in several patterns and of at least three kinds of material (one of which was cotton), depending on the branch of service for which they were intended and the climate in which the regiments were serving.³

For fatigue wear in ordinary weather, and for all service in 1846-1847, the enlisted men of Infantry were issued a jacket and overalls (trousers) of sky-blue kersey. This jacket was of the same pattern for all grades, with 15 small white metal buttons,⁴ and 3½ yards of ¼-inch white worsted lace on collar and shoulder straps. The overalls, which were worn also with the dress coat, were plain for all but sergeants, who were authorized 1½-inch white worsted stripes. Musicians wore the same clothing as the others. Chevrons had by 1846 come into general use on the undress uniform.

With this uniform went a dark blue cloth forage cap. This cloth cap had been worn by all branches for at least five years before the Mexican War and was destined to last until 1851 or later. In that period it must have been manufactured in several styles. But in what years one or another of these styles was worn, and by what kind of troops, is for the present difficult to say. James Walker liked to paint his soldiers in diminu-

tive forage caps, twisted into rakish shapes,⁵ but the few examples that survive today suggest the pattern was more conservative. No insignia or colored bands have been noted on Infantry forage caps, although these were commonly found in the other branches.

Officers on campaign wore a dark blue single-breasted frock coat, sky-blue trousers with 1½-inch white stripes, and the same forage cap as the men. On duty with troops, a crimson silk sash (tied on the left) was always worn. Rank was indicated by shoulder straps edged in silver lace; buttons were white metal.⁶

Infantrymen wore a white buff leather belt over the left shoulder and one around the waist—each with a brass plate. A black leather bayonet scabbard was attached to a frog sliding on the waist belt. Certain NCO's wore a double frog to receive a sword scabbard. Although Ordnance regulations prescribed russet "bag leather" musket slings, these also seem to have been whitened. Knapsacks were made of canvas or India-rubber on a rigid frame, painted black. Infantry knapsacks were marked with the regimental number in white figures, 1½ inches high. Knapsack-straps were prescribed as black, but appear to have been whitened, at least by regiments under General Scott's command.⁷

Cotton haversacks were carried by both officers and men. They also were marked, upon the flap, with the regimental designation, letter of the company, and number of the soldier in black letters and figures. In these the soldiers carried their food, and regulations strictly enjoined they be kept close at hand at all times.⁸ Very slight mention is made of canteens in official documents and, oddly enough, Walker showed none on his soldiers in Mexico. Yet it seems clear that they were issued for field service, although they may have been carried inside the haversacks.

⁵ See *MC&H*, III, 22-23.

⁶ "Uniform and Dress," 1839 and 1847.

⁷ *Ordnance Manual* . . . , Wash., D. C., 1841, p. 140. The rigid knapsack survived in the Volunteer Militia until the Civil War. *General Regulations*, U. S. Army, 1 May 1847, pars. 157 and 158. At an earlier date infantry knapsacks had been painted with a white "bugle" resembling the dress cap insignia (*General Regulations*, 1835, p. 237). The waist-belt took the place of a belt over the right shoulder about 1841, following a long struggle between Infantry and Ordnance; the 7th Infantry was the first regiment to adopt (on its own) the waist-belt (see *Army & Navy Chronicle*, II (1836), 221).

⁸ *General Regulations*, 1847, par. 160. Mexican War memoirs often speak of officers wearing haversacks, and of both officers and men slinging their blankets across their shoulders.

¹ The same stricture can be applied to the "Uniform and Dress" of 1847, which differed little from that of 1839.

² QMG Letter Book 12, Clothing Series, p. 447, in Natl. Archives.

³ Much of the data below is based on charts prepared about 1846 for the Quartermaster General showing the quantities of lace and buttons required for all patterns of uniforms; in QMG Records, Natl. Archives.

⁴ David F. Johnson, *Uniform Buttons*, I, 54-55, is incorrect in stating that the white metal Infantry button ended in the 1820's; white metal and silver lace were worn by the Infantry until 1851.

The cartridge box, suspended on the white shoulder belt, was of black leather and fitted to carry 40 paper cartridges in tin dividers. On its flap was an oval brass plate like that on the waist belt. Percussion cap boxes were not issued at this time; instead caps were carried (if carried at all) in special cap pockets in the jackets. Each soldier, if armed with a flintlock, wore a brass brush and pick suspended from a button on the front of his jacket.⁹

During the Mexican War, Regular Infantry were usually armed with the smoothbore flintlock musket of the Model 1816, manufactured as late as 1838, although percussion muskets had been produced at the national armories since 1844.¹⁰ Company officers, like the one

⁹ *Ordnance Manual*, 1841, *op. cit.*

¹⁰ Col. Arcadi Gluckman, *United States Muskets, Rifles and Carbines*, Buffalo, N. Y., 1948, pp. 137-44, 159-60, 167-69, Appendix IV.

shown in the plate, were authorized the well-known foot officer's sword of 1840, suspended from a white leather belt, but it is apparent from contemporary pictures that this sword was widely replaced on field service by a Dragoon saber carried on a black leather waist belt. Two years after the War a saber and waist belt were made official.¹¹

Discovery of more illustrative material on the Mexican War will doubtless disclose other variations, but this reconstruction of the dress of the sixteen regiments of Regular Infantry is as accurate as can be come by with the materials at hand.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.
Frederick P. Todd

¹¹ Theodore T. Belote, *American and European Swords* . . . , Wash., GPO, 1932, pp. 41-42; General Orders No. 2, War Dept., 13 Feb. 1850.

TERRY'S TEXAS RANGERS (8th TEXAS CAVALRY) C. S. A., 1864 (Plate No. 83)

During the battle of First Bull Run, 1861, B. Frank Terry, of Fort Bend County, Texas, and Thomas Lubbock, of Houston, served as voluntary aides to General Beauregard with the principal duty of reconnoitering the Federal forces. Their services proved so valuable to the Confederate cause that President Jefferson Davis commissioned Terry a colonel and Lubbock a lieutenant colonel with authority to raise a ten-company regiment of Texas "Rangers" to serve "for the duration" in Virginia.

In July 1861, Terry and Lubbock issued a call for volunteers. The men were to furnish their own arms and equipment; the Confederate government was to issue mounts when the regiment had been mustered into service and had reported to the Secretary of War.¹

In less than thirty days, ten companies, totalling over 1000 men, were on their way to Houston where they were mustered into the Confederate States Army as the 8th Texas Cavalry for "so long as the war shall last." Mounts were drawn by lot "from about a thousand

horses tied to a picket rope" at the Fair Grounds, Bowling Green, Ky.

Although minimum requirements for acceptance into the ranks of Terry's Rangers consisted of a shotgun, preferably double barreled, a six-shooter (the basic Ranger weapon) and a complete set of horse equipments, including bitted bridle, picket rope or *cabrista*, saddle and saddle blanket, there is substantial evidence that the addition of at least two more hand guns, a Bowie knife and a large canteen was normal for the individual.² There is other evidence that about one man in ten subsequently replaced a lost or damaged shotgun with

¹ Terry was killed during his unit's initial engagement with Federal troops at Woodsonville, Ky. (Rowlett's Station) 17 Dec. 1861; Lubbock died of typhus fever in Nashville, Tenn. at about the same time. H. H. Shelton, "Terry's Texas Ranger" in vol. IV, no. 1, *Under Texas Skies*, Austin, 1953; A. G. Adair, ed. and H. W. Graber, *The Life Record of H. W. Graber, A Terry Texas Ranger, 1861-1865*, 1916. The last is the most rewarding account of weapons, methods of fighting, equipment and clothing of the unit.

² Graber, *op. cit.*, p. 37. L. B. Giles (of Co. "D"), *Terry's Texas Rangers*, Austin, 1911. Giles wrote: "One reason for our almost uniform success was the superiority of our arms . . . at the beginning a good pistol was a requisite . . . If a man died or was killed his comrades kept his pistol. When a prisoner of the enemy's cavalry was taken, this part of his equipment was added to the general stock . . . after a few months most if not all had two weapons of this kind, and some even tried to carry three or four." The noted Texas sculptor Dr. Pompeo Coppini, in 1905-06, created an heroic equestrian monument to Terry's Rangers which stands in the Capitol grounds at Austin. He worked with an enthusiastic but highly critical committee of ten veterans of Terry's Rangers. Coppini's Ranger is armed with a Sharps carbine and four "six-guns"—two in the belt and two in saddle holsters.

"Cabrista" is a term of Spanish-Mexican origin applied to the 24 to 30 foot woven hair rope used as both neck halter and picket rope in Texas and Mexico during the 19th century. It was usually carried in a loose coil tied to the near side of the pommel fork, or, as shown in the plate, tied loosely around the neck by a knot similar to a bowline, with the bight coiled and tied as a bow.

a weapon of longer range; Sharps carbines, Mississippi Rifles and Enfields are mentioned.³ The hand guns appear to have been predominantly the Colt and copies of it by various manufacturers, although the Tranter was much admired, and Terry himself carried four of these.⁴

Uniformity was more evident in the compliment of arms carried by the individual and in the marked similarity in horse equipments than in their clothing. The Texas saddles used by all of the Rangers were considered so positive an identification of Terry's men that, on at least one occasion, Federal troops mistook a company of Forrest's command, in which many Texas saddles were observed, for the leading elements of the "8th Texas."⁵

It is recorded that none of Terry's Rangers would consider going about his business without the Lone Star insignia on at least one part of his clothing or accouterments, preferably on the hat and frequently on the belt plate and holsters. These stars were, for the most part, hand made of pewter, lead, or tin and varied in size as well as profile.⁶

Carl Von Iwonski's small (15 x 11½ inch) oil, painted from life in 1863 or 1864, gives evidence that an attempt was made to provide a semblance of uniformity in clothing by the addition of red trimmings to jackets and trousers, similar to those worn by the rangers under General Ben McCulloch during the early

days of the war.⁷ The figures in the plate are primarily based on this painting, which depicts four of Terry's Rangers riding at a carefree gallop, very evidently during "off duty" time. They are without impedimenta except for the inevitable arsenal of "six-guns," four to each man, and a two quart canteen joyfully held aloft by the central figure, Ranger Sam Maverick of "G" Company.⁸

The plate deviates from the painting as follows: the scene is changed to a "water halt"; shoulder arms and one canteen or jug per man have been added. The "Wigfall" flag has been added, and the hat of the bearer changed from straw to felt; details of belts and holsters, partially observed in the painting, have been emphasized; Ranger Maverick (dismounted) has a Yankee cavalry overcoat tied to the cantle of his saddle.

The company officer is the only one wearing articles of the regulation Confederate uniform: gray campaign hat, low crown, wide curling brim with bound edge, braided gilt hat cord, and lone star set at an angle left of front; yellow trimmed gray cavalry shell jacket; trousers of undyed material with yellow stripes. His pistol holsters are the only ones which retain the cover flaps. His buckskin mount is the only one without a *cabrista*. The painting shows his black boots, worn under the trousers, thrust into open oxbow stirrups.

The "Wigfall" flag shown is the first of two presentation flags carried by Terry's Rangers, and the only one remaining in a fair state of preservation.⁹ This silk flag was made and presented by the daughter of L. T. Wigfall of Marshall, Texas, U. S. Senator in 1861, and subsequently a general officer in the Confederacy. The obverse differs from the reverse (shown in plate) only in that the motto is the Latin "Ducit amor patriae."

Harry Larter

⁷ The Iwonski painting was presented to the Witte Memorial Museum by descendants of Sam Maverick; *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, I, 36.

⁸ Sam Maverick joined the 1st Texas Cavalry at the outbreak of war. In 1862 he transferred to "G" Company of Terry's Rangers (Rena Maverick Green, *Samuel Maverick, 1803-1870*, San Antonio, 1952, p. 363 f.).

⁹ The two flags are in the Texas Confederate Museum, Austin.

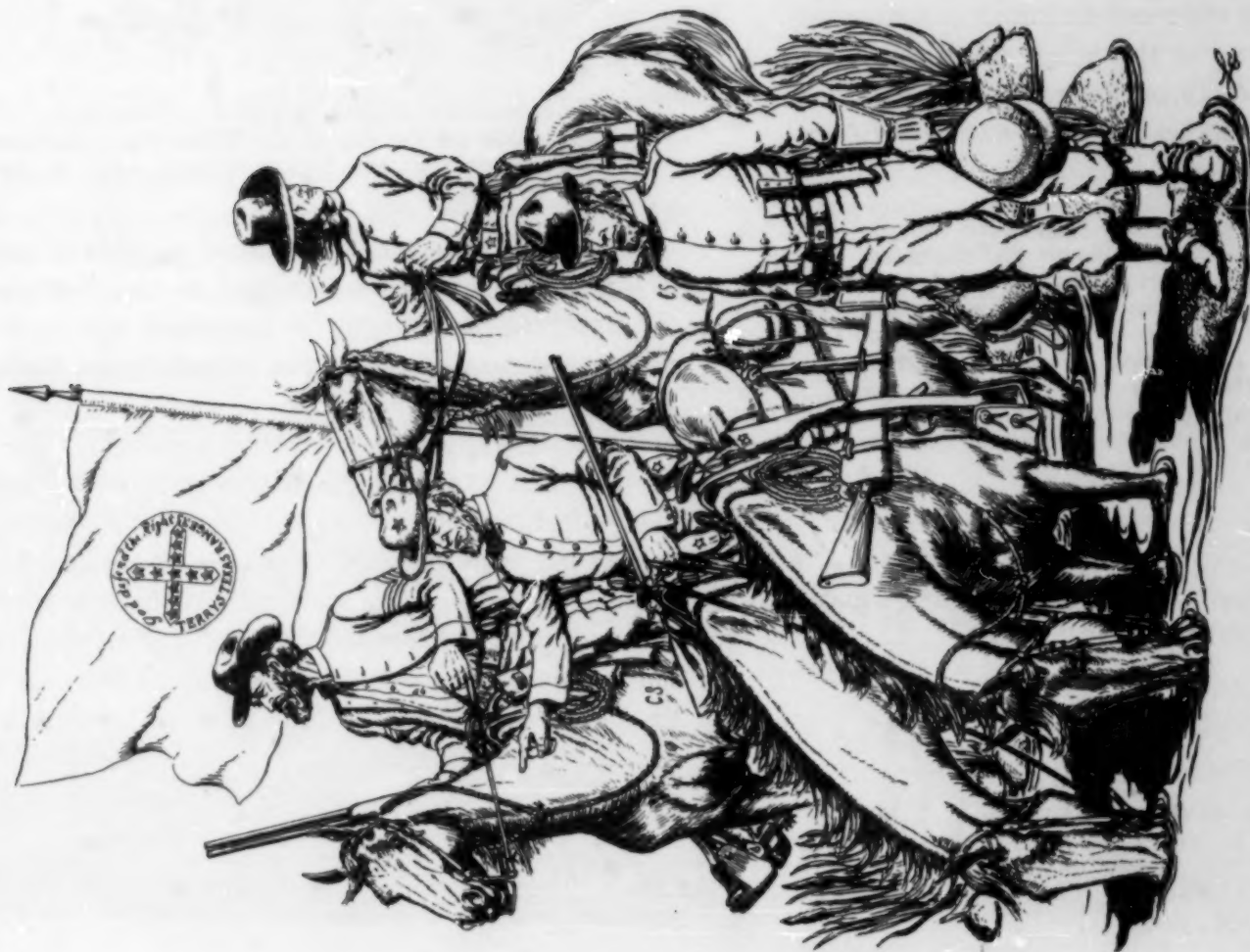
7th REGIMENT, NATIONAL GUARD STATE OF NEW YORK, 1900-1905

(Plate No. 84)

Plate 72 of this series showed men of the Seventh New York in the summer full dress of 1880-1900. Here we see the same regiment, a short time later, in its fatigue and field uniforms.

The years immediately following the Spanish-Ameri-

can War were years of marked transition in military dress and accoutrements. Nowhere are the changes illustrated more forcefully than in the types shown here. Still clinging to its traditional gray, the Regiment in these years introduced field service innovations of several



Sergeant Company Officer Standard Bearer with "Wigfall" Flag Ranger

Terry's Texas Rangers (8th Texas Cavalry), C. S. A., 1864



Battalion Sergeant Major Battalion Adjutant Sergeant (in Shirt) Orderly

7th Regiment, National Guard State of New York, 1900-1905

kinds. The result was an odd but not impractical medley which lasted until the adoption of the regulation State khaki uniform in 1906.

Up to 1900, despite several experiments, the fatigue and field uniforms remained essentially those the Seventh had worn since before the Civil War. In that year the famous gray jacket was replaced by the gray blouse shown in the plate. Officers were already wearing for fatigue a dark blue coat with roll collar and patch pockets, the blue continuing the tradition that officers be easily distinguished from the men. In 1900, too, a gray flannel shirt and a campaign hat were prescribed for wear at summer camp.¹

The adjutant still wears his patent leather sabretache

¹ DeWitt Clinton Falls, *History of the Seventh Regiment, 1889-1922*, New York, 1948, pp. 44, 108.

despite the fact it seems anachronistic with his wrap puttees, the latter introduced a few years before in the British Army. Equally British are the short leather leggings worn by the enlisted men. For some fatigue formations the men wore their gray dress kepis; these years saw the last stand of this ancient article, worn since the 1850's.

The sergeant major and officer wear swords and the sergeant, armed with the U. S. Rifle, Model 1889, has the State regulation loop cartridge belt. This was the golden age of the bicycle and, naturally, one was standard equipment for an orderly. In these uniforms and accoutrements the Seventh served at the State Camp of Instruction at Peekskill, N. Y., and on maneuvers with another gray-clad outfit, the U. S. Corps of Cadets.

Frederick P. Todd

★ ★ ★

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

A MILITIA BUTTON IDENTIFIED

The button illustrated has for some years, not unreasonably, been thought to be exclusively a political button of the Whig party used in the presidential election campaigns of the 1830's.¹ While quite probably it may have been used for that purpose, it very definitely was a uniform button of an independent militia organization in Massachusetts known as the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry. A contemporary newspaper, *The Gazette*, of Salem reported a parade held on 17 October 1834 in these words:²

The unexampled pressure which has been brought to bear upon the Salem Light Infantry and the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry because their political sentiments were in unison with those of nine-tenths of the great body of young men throughout the country may justify us in selecting them for particular notice. They never appeared with fuller ranks nor ever made a more imposing or brilliant display. The Mechanics appeared in new and elegant uniform extremely neat and soldierlike, ornamented with a button the legend of which is "Whigs of 1776 and 1834." The corps was commanded by Capt. James Chamberlain.

In the same paper appears a communication signed, "A Mechanic," in which it states,

We were particularly well pleased with the full ranks of the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry and the Salem Light Infantry, as these companies had suffered



some diminution in their numbers in consequence of doing escort on the day of the Whig dinner in this town. Several of the former officers were in the ranks as privates.

It probably cannot be determined whether or not the device on the button was designed or commissioned by this company, or whether it happened that an enterprising salesman of the button manufacturer, Robinson Jones & Company, sold them an already existing item in their stock. At first thought it might appear unlikely that it would be practical to design and make a special button just for sale to the limited number of men in one of these small companies whose ranks rarely exceed 75. Still, as the elaborate uniforms worn often required some 30 buttons each, an initial order for a unit would reach a total of better than 2,000. In those days of cheap labor such an order was probably not insignificant. Certainly there is ample evidence that many of these small independent chartered companies used special buttons with distinctive designs and lettering which made them of no possible use for other purposes.

¹ David F. Johnson, *Uniform Buttons*, N. Y., 1948, I, 183, no. 926; illus. II, pl. 78. A convex one-piece gilt, marked on reverse: R. J. & Co./EXTRA; Diam. 17 mm.

² Quoted from George M. Whipple, *History of the Salem Light Infantry*, Salem, 1890, p. 33.

At least two variants of the design described in the *Gazette* have survived and are illustrated here.³

There are as well six other designs using the liberty cap as the central device but bearing slightly differing legends.⁴ Whether or not these buttons were also used by the Mechanics has not been determined, but the possibility can not be dismissed.

H. W. Williams, Jr.

³ Johnson, *op. cit.*; p. 183, no. 927.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 183, nos. 928-933, inclusive.

CONFEDERATE BELT BUCKLES

Since publication of my recent article on Confederate buckles and plates (*MC&H*, V, 41-44), I have noted a few additional types of interest. Two of these are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. They are made of heavy cast brass and apparently were never produced in great quantities since they are seldom seen today.

Two buckles of the rectangular shape, bearing the letters "CSA," are displayed in museums. They are mentioned specially because of their being fabricated from lead or pewter. They differ from the often-seen Confederate rectangular "CSA" plates in that they do not have a raised border. Their lettering also varies greatly in style from the more common types. One of these buckles can be seen in the Old Courthouse Museum, Vicksburg, Mississippi; found on the Vicksburg battlefield by a native.

Another interesting type is a cast brass rectangular buckle which bears the letters "CS" within a wreath. The Confederate General Braxton Bragg is said to have worn such a buckle.

Other variations of the two piece wreath style buckle have also been noted. One bears the lettering "CSA" on the center piece in an unusual style which has the letters entwined. This specimen was picked up on the Chickamauga battlefield. Another has the "CS" in Old English letters.



1.

An interesting Confederate Navy buckle is in the Confederate White House Museum in Richmond. It is of the two-piece variety, the outer portion being the familiar wreath style. The center piece has two crossed cannon with an anchor centering on them. Below this device are the letters "CN." This buckle belonged to Lodge Colton, Masters Mate of the Confederate naval vessel.

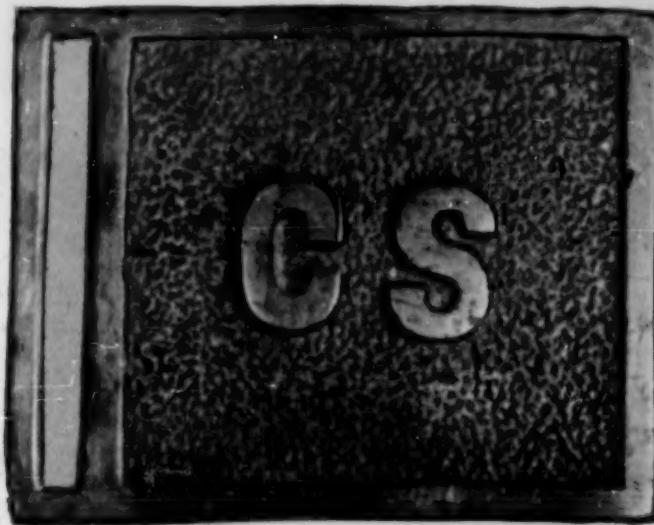
William G. Gavin

THE RENEGADE

Among the Oglala Sioux today will be found more than a few with the decidedly un-Indian surname of Twiss. The tribesmen of mixed blood who bear that name are living reminders of one of the strangest stories of our frontier, the tale of a West Pointer who turned squaw man.

Thomas S. Twiss, descendant of a Swiss family, entered West Point in 1822 and graduated second in his class. He was detailed as instructor, then as engineer in construction of Newport, R. I., fortifications. Resigning to enter teaching, he became a professor at South Carolina College where he was renowned for strict discipline. After serving as superintendent of iron works and consulting engineer for a railroad, in 1855 he was appointed U. S. Indian Agent of the Upper Platte District.

For a while Twiss co-operated with the Army, attempting to keep Indians on the reservation and improve their lot. Then he succumbed to the strong temptation of graft whereby numbers of Indian agents, at an annual salary of \$1,500, retired after four years with \$50,000 in loot. Twiss acquired a Sioux wife and a pet bear. He threw in his lot with rascalion whisky traders at Deer Creek Station where Sir Richard Burton, the English explorer, met him and quoted a comment that "Twiss's ba'r got more sugar than the pore damn Injuns."



2.

1



2



3



Lincoln dismissed Twiss as agent in 1861 and the ex-officer went over wholly to the Sioux, taking more squaws. During the Civil War, an old man with a snowy beard appeared at Fort Laramie and astonished officers by discussing Grant's campaigns with acute comments. They did not learn till later that it was Twiss, former West Point honor man. One of his half-breed sons, James Twiss, served in the Army as a Sioux scout in the winter campaign of '76.

Fairfax Downey

THREE BELL-CROWNED CAPS

The three leather caps illustrated here are all from the collection of Member Waverly P. Lewis. All are of the same general style and period yet, in their differences, they effectively illustrate the alpha and omega of the bell-crowned style.

This military cap (or shako) with the distinctively concave sides and wide crown (which made it resemble the mouth of a bell, upside down) originated in Europe with the turning of the tide against Napoleon, and appears to have represented a reaction against French styles. Russian infantry began to wear what may have been the forerunner of the type in 1812, but it was the Prussian infantry which introduced the true model in 1814, symbolic of the regeneration of that army in the German War of Liberation. The international rivalry in dress among the Allies during the occupation of Paris, after Waterloo, appears to have impelled the bell-crowned style into most European armies, and in 1816 the British adopted what was called the "Regency Shako," a moderately bell-crowned cap of black felt.¹ It is significant that the French army, alone of all the major forces, never adopted the model.

The bell-crowned cap enjoyed a long life in Europe, where it was worn until the 1840's. The British army, for example, finally replaced it with the "Albert Shako" in 1844; in the meanwhile, the "Regency Shako" had been supplanted by an even more bell-shaped model in 1829. When it was introduced to America is hard to say, but its first appearance in U. S. Army Regulations dates from 1821, where it is described as:

... of leather; bell crown; gilt scales; yellow eagle, in front, three inches between the tips of the wings, with the number of the regiment cut in the shield; black leather cockade, one and a half inch in diameter, having a small yellow button in the center, with an eagle impressed on it . . . brass scales.

This cap was worn by Regular Army company officers and enlisted men of Infantry and Artillery (there was no Cavalry). With it was worn a pompon, five inches high, of various colors. Also with it was a loosely woven

cord, terminated at either end by tassels, of gold or silver lace for officers and colored worsted for men.

The bell-crowned cap lasted in our Regular Army until 1832 or, more probably, until a few years later. In the Volunteer Militia its life was somewhat longer, but by 1840 most commands had discarded it for one or another of the weird styles that appeared in the 1830's. In America this style of cap was almost universally made of leather.

Harry Ogden very imperfectly pictured the bell-crowned cap on Plate XV of the *Uniform of the Army of the United States*—clearly he did not possess an actual example. The upper and lower bands and "V" shaped reenforcements he showed have no place on an all-leather cap.

The three specimens here illustrated (all, apparently, Militia models) have several attachments in common: scale chin-straps, cut-out eagles and cockades (the one on No. 2 has come off). Many Militia versions carried plates instead of eagles, often diamond-shaped. All here have pompons, although their shapes differ; neither seems to be the 5-inch Regular Army pompon. Two, it will be noted, have a cord while the third is plain.

No. 1 is closest to the simpler Regular Army model, but its peak or visor is edged with metal. This cap was obtained from an old house near Middleboro, Mass.

No. 2 is the most exaggerated of the three caps, having a deep point in the back, wide crown, and convex top. It was bought in Bennington, Vermont.

No. 3 differs from the others in its squared peak, a fairly unusual feature. All its ornaments are silvered. It was purchased in Stamford, Connecticut.

The bell-crowned shako, tall and often graceful, but ungainly to wear, perfectly typifies the romanticism and peaceful character of the 1820's.

Frederick P. Todd

SWORD AND PISTOL PATTERNS OF 1779

There have recently been discovered in the National Archives ten volumes of records relating to Army procurement during the early years of the Republic which have been unavailable to students for the last twenty-two years. One of these volumes, "Estimate Book No. 1, Military Supplies, U. S. Arsenal, Philadelphia" has much information relating to arms, uniforms and equipment.

Two interesting letters from this book are quoted below. The first is a description of the saber sent to Nathan Starr for use as a pattern for his famous 1798 contract. This letter is important to students because it settles once and for all the question of whether the original scabbards were leather or iron. The second is a description of a pattern pistol made at the same time

¹ *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, XV (1936), 193-98.

which indicates a very different design from the renowned North & Cheney pistol which was manufactured under a contract awarded two months later.

Detmar H. Finke
Harold L. Peterson

Description of the Dragoon Sword sent to Mr. Starr, as a model or pattern for those making by him for the United States.

Plain Steel Hilt, single rib, 5¾ inches long wound with brass Wire.

Length of the Blade, 2 feet 10 inches. Mean Breadth of ditto 1¼ inches.

Black leather indented Scabbard, Steel mounted, Socket on the upper, and Chape on the lower parts.
Philadelphia, 2d January 1799,
Samuel Hodgdon.

Honorable

James McHenry, Esqu.

Secretary of War.

Dimensions and description of the Pistol made for a pattern and shewn to Mr. Dana.

Length of the Barrel, 10 inches, exclusive of the Breach.

Caliber, equal to 19 Balls to the pound.

Lock, 5½ inches long.

Brass Mounting.

Whole length of the Pistol 16½ Inches.

Weight of the Pistol.

The whole *plain* but finished in the *best* manner.

Note. The Pistol is full stocked with black Walnut, has one Pipe, and a band of brass round it about an inch from the muzzle. Ramrod headed with brass, about an inch and an half down. Stock less crooked than usual, to afford good room for the hand.

Philadelphia, 7th January 1799
Samuel Hodgdon.

Honorable Samuel W. Dana,
In Congress.

SACKCLOTH AND ASHES DEPARTMENT

Correction: National Colors, Cavalry

(Vol. V, p. 76)

Strong proof that U. S. Cavalry regiments were not authorized or furnished National Standards, either silk or service, until 1895, at the earliest, has just been forwarded to me. In view of this evidence the inclusion of a National Standard in Plate No. 76, "Standards of the 10th U. S. Cavalry 1888-1890," is in error, and the statements concerning a National Standard in the text are highly inaccurate.

An extract from a letter from the Quartermaster General to Colonel D. S. Gordon, 6th Cavalry, 11 April 1895, reads:

Under existing regulations the Cavalry regiments of the service are furnished with yellow silken standards, *they have no national colors* [italics are mine] . . . It has occurred to the Quartermaster General that it might be found desirable to also supply the Headquarters of the Cavalry with a color of the same size as the "Standard" for drill purposes, and therefore a national flag of bunting with embroidered stars and name of regiment has been specially manufactured . . .

This bunting National Standard was approved by the Secretary of War, as evidenced by a letter from the

Quartermaster General to the Depot Quartermaster, Philadelphia, 10 May 1895.

Army Regulations of 1895 (page 31) further authorized the Cavalry a silken National Standard:

Standards for Cavalry Regiments

218. The national standards of stars and stripes as described for flags, will be made of silk, 4 feet fly and 3 feet on the lance.

The full responsibility for the error and inaccuracies in plate and text is mine. None of the individuals who so kindly helped me gather information on this subject is in any way responsible. This includes my daughter, whose sole concern, at my request, was the compilation of extracts pertaining to the Regimental Standards, and who, unfortunately, was not asked to check the regulations pertaining to the National Standards.

The inspiration for this as a subject for the Plate series came from statements in R. C. Ballard Thruston, *The Origin and Evolution of the United States Flag*, p. 13 (published as House Document No. 258, 69th Congress, 1st Session, 22 February 1926); and in Gherardi Davis, *The Colors of the United States Army, 1789-1912*, pp. 55-56. Thruston states: ". . . not until 1887 . . . was the cavalry given the right to carry the Stars and Stripes as the national standard, . . ." Davis repeats the year 1887 and cites General Orders No. 31, 13 April 1887. I accepted both statements at face value and did not check General Orders No. 31. That was my initial step in compounding the errors of Thruston and Davis. The general orders cited, it turns out, pertain only to the Regimental Standard and do not mention the National.

With the year 1887 in mind, and with a photograph of the Regimental Standard pattern of that year as a guide, I examined the photograph of the various standards of the 10th in the Officers' Club at Fort Huachuca. The pair over the mantelpiece (the place of honor) seemed right in every respect. The Regimental fitted the pattern of 1887 exactly, and in the union of the National only thirty-one stars were visible, with what appeared to be parts of the top and second rows obscured by the folds. I accepted this as a National Standard made in 1887, or shortly thereafter. The error was thus further compounded.

I have now reexamined this photograph in the light of the new evidence, and there is no question in my mind that it is a Regimental Standard of the 1887 pattern, but a National Standard with a 45-star union, which places it not earlier than 1896. It is not the top and second rows of stars which are partially obscured by the folds, but it is the second and third rows which are partially obscured, and the top row is completely obscured. The wish was father to the thought.

In going back over the paths of my research I can now read several clearly marked sign posts which should have warned me I was headed in the wrong direction. I therefore offer this as my humble apology and explanation, but no excuse, for having compounded the error by failing to check a vital point. This has been a most severe and unhappy lesson to me. I hope it will serve as a safeguard to others.

Harry Larter

Corrections: Various Plates

This seems as good a time as any to list several possible errata in the "Military Uniforms in America" series. In all cases the corrections can be made by hand:

Plate 60. The stars on the guidon should be golden, rather than white.

Plate 65. Sling swivels of the muskets should be white metal, not brass.

Plate 67. Bands on the musket held by the sergeant should be white metal, not brass; and the Sharps rifle should have an iron patch box and fore-end tip.

Plate 68. On some plates, apparently, the trouser stripes were not colored; they should be red.

Plate 71. On some plates, apparently, the cap band of the private was left white; it should be the same dark blue as the crown of the cap.

ANSWERS:

"VMM" AND "UAG" BELT BUCKLES

(Vol. III, p. 94 and Vol. IV, p. 101)

Earlier inquiries by the writer on oval shaped buckles and plates bearing the lettering "UAG" and "VMM" are now believed answered. On page 42 of Francis H. Tay-

lor's *Philadelphia in the Civil War* mention is made of a company being formed in 1861 in Philadelphia called the Union Artillery Guard. The later history of this unit is not mentioned. Since the lettering is rather unusual and the buckle owned by the author came originally from the Philadelphia area, it can be assumed with fair safety that the oval "UAG" buckles were made for this unit.

Dr. Francis A. Lord, member of THE COMPANY, recently told me of an entry in a Maine regimental history which stated that the members of early Maine regiments were issued plates and buckles bearing the letters "VMM" (Volunteer Maine Militia) prior to their departure from the State.¹ Judging from the 1861 *Report* of the Adjutant General of Maine, the first ten regiments were considered Volunteer Militia, as distinct from Volunteers. This very definitely clears up the question as to the origin of these items. Other interpretations of "VMM"—that it stood for "Virginia Minute Men" or "Vert Monte Militia" (of Vermont)—can be excluded. As further confirmation, I recently acquired a "VMM" plate which had been found on the Chancellorsville battlefield. A search of the *Official Records* disclosed that there were many Maine regiments in action there, but that not a sole Vermont regiment was present at that battle. The Vermont Brigade was assigned to the 6th Corps and fought with Sedgwick at Salem Church and Fredericksburg during this campaign.

William G. Gavin

¹ Major John M. Gould, *History of the First—Tenth—Twenty-ninth Maine Regiment*, Portland, Me., 1871, p. 87.

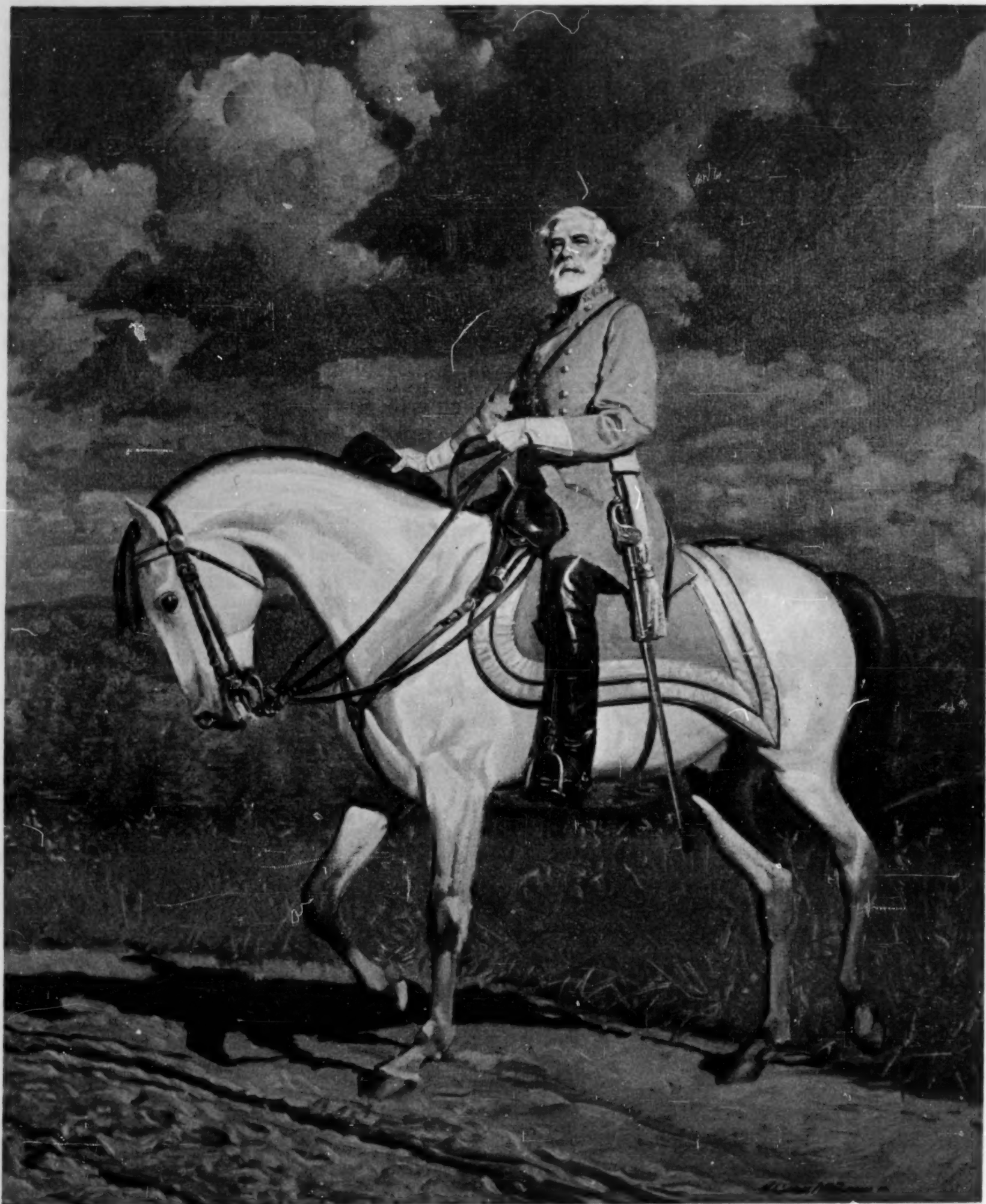
GAZETTE

The Secretary has announced the approval by the Board of Governors of the following ladies and gentlemen as active members of THE COMPANY:

Earl C. Adams, Los Angeles, Calif.
Ernest A. Brousseau, Old Orchard Beach, Me.
Richard M. Cooper, Pacific Palisades, Calif.
Rear Admiral John Ford, Hollywood, Calif.
Francis E. Fowler, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.
Thomas Harrison, New Orleans, La.
Capt. George F. Hoge, U. S. A.
Norman L. Hope, New York, N. Y.
Major Charles T. Hopkins, Jr., Atlanta, Georgia
Hampton P. Howell, Jr., Westhampton Beach, N. Y.

1st Lt. Calvin W. Hurd, U.S.A.F., Dayton, Ohio
Charles-Felix Keller, Paris, France
Captain Thomas M. King, Jr., San Antonio, Texas
William M. Locke, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mme. Fernande P. Metayer, Paris, France
Vincent J. Palange, Lewiston, Me.
Theodore B. Pitman, Cambridge, Mass.
Lee B. Price, San Francisco, Calif.
Beale Howard Richardson, IV, New Orleans, La.
Carl Satscheck, III, Douglaston, L. I., N. Y.
Burghard Steiner, Miami, Fla.
Fred A. Stocker, Philadelphia, Penn.
Lt. Cmdr. E. Perry Williams, U.S.C.G.

★ ★ ★



The striking portrait of General Lee, here reproduced, was recently executed by Governor H. Charles McBarron, Jr., and was presented to the Valley Forge Military Academy by THE COMPANY as a token of its appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Academy last January. The presentation was made possible through the generosity of Governor Anne Brown. The frame bears the names of subject and artist and the legend: "Presented by the Company of Military Collectors & Historians, 1953."

McBarron has written as follows about his reconstruction of the great Virginian:

The time of the painting I have supposed to be in September 1863 when the Confederate Army was reviewed by Lee in Virginia. I have tried to get the feeling of impending doom in the cloudy background. The figure is in slanting sunlight and the road is rutted by guns and wagons as if leading to the dark future.

The uniform is after the photograph taken in Richmond in 1863; I have only added a sash which he probably wore on such an occasion. The horse equipments are similar to the regulation for Union general officers. I suppose Lee had such for special occasions as most of the Grimsley saddles were in the South at that time. I have not put any markings in the corner of the saddle cloth as I could not find anything authentic.

The portrait will be placed in the Officers Mess at the Academy following a brief display in the Library. Major General Milton G. Baker, Superintendent of the Academy, has replied in part as follows:

We are proud and happy to have this portrait of General Lee which, I know, will serve as an inspiration to the Cadets who are being trained and educated in the traditions of our great country here at Valley Forge Military Academy . . . I hope you will convey to The Company my gratitude for the regard for Valley Forge, which is evidenced by the presentation of this portrait.

We are delighted to be able to record this evidence of THE COMPANY's efficacy and thank all concerned.

★ ★ ★

Captain Paul M. Linton, U.S.A., Governor and Vice President of THE COMPANY, its first Secretary, and always one of its most enthusiastic and likeable members, died at his post in Korea on 14 December 1953. His illness was sudden, and his death came four days afterwards in the 44th Army Surgical Hospital. Burial was at Lynn, Massachusetts.

Only those who worked closely with Paul in the formative days of the society know the magnitude of his contribution. Despite a most exacting job at the Rock Island Arsenal, he managed to pull and hold the membership together and conduct the affairs of THE COMPANY in a fashion that placed it on the threshold of its present success.

To Mrs. Linton, who graced for a brief time one of our gatherings in Washington, we send our deepest sympathy, and our thanks for sharing Paul with us.

★ ★ ★

President Larter was recently elected as a member of the Associate Advisory Board of the Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, Texas. We have long since lost track of the museum and association connections maintained by this energetic man, but they must by now establish some sort of a record.

★ ★ ★

The Stonewall Jackson Memorial Incorporated has been formed and is raising funds to save and preserve Jackson's home in Lexington, Virginia, and eventually to establish there a collection of memorabilia of the Confederate leader. Its President is Jay W. Johns, of Ash Lawn, Charlottesville. Contributions and pledges of any size are welcome and \$5.00 or more will enlist the donor in the Second Stonewall Brigade; contributors of \$100.00 or more will be made Colonels in that Brigade.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

Once more the subject of the Custer Battle appears among the recently published volumes. This time it is a book that is one of the finest ever produced on the subject. *The Custer Myth* by Col. W. A. Graham (The Stackpole Company, \$10.00) is an extensive compilation of the source material relating to that famous engagement. The only major source that it lacks is the

record of the Reno court of inquiry, which Col. Graham published separately a few years ago. There are Indian accounts, reports of participants, early newspaper stories, interviews with survivors, and reminiscences. The famous Benteen-Goldin correspondence is included, although in order to make it printable it has been heavily edited on the subject of Custer's personal morals.

The book is well illustrated with pictures of individuals connected with the fight, objects such as the 7th Cavalry standards, facsimile reproductions of documents, and both early and modern interpretations of the event itself.

Two illustrations will be of particular interest to Company members. One is the frontispiece which is a photograph of a statuette by member Dwight Franklin entitled "The Death of Yellow Hair". It is a striking figure and one of the most accurate portrayals ever made of Custer as he appeared in the battle. In the photograph, the pistol in his hand looks more like a Colt than the "English bull dog revolver" which documents indicate Custer carried, but otherwise every little detail checks.

The other illustration is a very fine painting of an aerial view of the battle by Gayle Hoskins. The artist purposely ignored the time element in order to show as many of the individual events as possible, and he has achieved a highly spirited and accurate portrayal. The painting is reproduced in full color on both the book jacket and the end papers, and it may be purchased as a separate print for the sum of one dollar.

Last, but by no means least, there is a comprehensive bibliography of the battle containing some 641 entries which has been compiled by Fred Dustin, another outstanding student of the subject.

★ ★ ★

The Department of the Army in mid-February published the first volume of *The Army Lineage Book* (Volume II, Infantry). This volume contains four types of information not available elsewhere. It is primarily a collection of the official statements of lineage and battle honors for all the infantry regiments and battalions, active and inactive, on the Army's rolls as of the end of 1950. These lineages are the pedigrees of the units. They show their ages, the various names they have been called, and the major reorganizations they have undergone. In addition, they list the campaigns in which each has taken part throughout American History, and the decorations each has won.

The lineages are accompanied by black and white drawings of the coats of arms and distinctive insignia of each regiment and battalion where these have been authorized by The Quartermaster General. These are tricked to show color. There is a bibliography of books and articles written about each unit in the section on that unit. And, finally, the volume contains a narrative history of the organization of Infantry in the United States Army from the Revolutionary War to the present.

This is the first of a series of seven similar volumes to

by published by the Office, Chief of Military History. The others will cover divisions, Armor, Field Artillery, Antiaircraft Artillery, Engineers, and other branches. They will be issued in the order listed, one or two coming out each year for the next several years. These volumes are designed to be reference works for the Army, and for all who have an interest in American military history.

Comparable compilations of the lineages of foreign regiments are *Historiques des corps de troupe de l'armée française (1569-1900)*, published by the French War Ministry in 1900; General Claus von Bredow's *Historische Rang-und Stammlist des deutschen Heeres*, issued in 1905; and John S. Farmer's *The Regimental Records of the British Army*, published in 1901. The American series differs fundamentally from the others by including reserve as well as regular elements.

Copies are available at the Government Printing Office for \$2.00.

★ ★ ★

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to announce in this issue that the Marine Corps has published a series of colored prints of paintings of Marine uniforms by Maj. John H. Magruder, III, who was recently elected a governor of THE COMPANY. There are 22 plates in the series, each of them 8x11 inches, and they trace the history of the uniform from the Revolution to the present. The paintings are beautifully done, and the reproductions are excellent. Major Magruder has done extensive research on the subject over a long period, and is undoubtedly the leading authority on his subject. The entire set sells for the very nominal sum of one dollar. They may be obtained from the Marine Corps Gazette, Box 106, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia.

★ ★ ★

Two new books devoted to American firearms have been received since the last issue of MC&H went to press. The first of these is *The Story of Colt's Revolver* by William B. Edwards (The Stackpole Company, \$10.00). A large, profusely illustrated volume, this latest study in the Colt field is primarily a biography of the inventor himself. As such it falls somewhat between Jack Rohan's early biography and the technical studies of the guns themselves written by James E. Serven. It contains much more information on the Colt arms than the former, but not nearly so much as the latter.

The Story of Colt's Revolver has many very strong points, but it also has a few noticeable weaknesses. It presents much new material, especially on the experimental models, and it reprints a number of important

documents and drawings that are not readily available elsewhere. Also it is undoubtedly the most accurate biography of Colt that has yet been published. On the other hand its style is more often flippant than profound and it presents much that is sheer conjecture in the guise of documented fact.

All in all, however, it is a book that all Colt students and collectors will want to own and an excellent value for the price.

★ ★ ★

The second book on American arms to be received was *The Original Confederate Colt* by William A. Albaugh, III, and Richard D. Steuart (Greenberg: Publisher, \$5.00). It should be pointed out at the beginning that this volume was compiled and written by Albaugh after the death of Company member Steuart. Since much of the material included came from Steuart's notes, however, his name was included as co-author in tribute.

This new volume is small (only 62 pages) and thus rather expensive at the price which the publishers have placed on it. Yet it contains a wealth of information on the Leech & Rigdon and Rigdon and Ansley revolvers as well as data on some of the swords produced by Leech & Rigdon. The biographies of the men involved, the complicated movements of the factories as they avoided advancing Union troops, production figures and techniques are all given in admirable detail.

There is some indication that this volume is designed as the first of a series that will eventually cover all the Confederate made hand guns. If this is indeed the case, students of Confederate arms may look forward to future numbers with considerable enthusiasm.

★ ★ ★

In the field of Foreign arms publications, it is a pleasure to note the new Swedish book by Josef Alm mentioned below and also the appearance of the first number of a projected serial from Switzerland. *Armes Anciennes* is published in Geneva, and the first issue was devoted to interesting specimens of arms and armor in the Geneva Museum of Art and History. Well printed (in French) and nicely illustrated, this first number of 24 pages cost 4.25 Swiss francs. Future plans are indefinite, but those who wish to receive new issues as they appear should write to the editor.

★ ★ ★

The Royal Army Museum, Stockholm, Sweden has just issued two new publications of considerable interest. The first of these is entitled simply *Pictures*. It is a small booklet of 56 pages but has many fine photographs of flags, uniforms, arms, ordnance and other military objects. All captions and other text are printed both in

English and Swedish. No price is marked, but it probably sells for about a dollar.

The second publication is a large volume devoted to the history of the small arms of the Swedish army from the beginning to modern times. Written by Joseph Alm, Master Armorer of the museum, *Arméns Eldhandvapen* is an excellent study in all respects. The text is detailed and accurate, and there are many fine illustrations. This new book should not be confused with the earlier two volume study, *Eldhandvapen*, by the same author. The price of the book in paper is 34:50 Swedish crowns and in cloth 48:-. Both this and the picture book mentioned above may be obtained by writing direct to the Kungl. Armémuseum, 13 Riddargatan, Stockholm 7.

★ ★ ★

The field of military collecting took a large step toward maturity with the publication late in 1953 of the first memoir of a major collector. It was the work of Commandant E.-L. Bucquoy, throughout the 20th century France's most aggressive and knowledgeable collector-producer. The title, *Bréviaire du collectionneur d'uniformes*, points to his preparation of the book as a guide for young men following in his footsteps.

To read the experiences of Commandant Bucquoy, now in his 75th year and with sixty-two of these years avidly devoted to his hobby (he sketched his first uniform on the 5th of July, 1891), is a richly rewarding experience for another collector. It is, equally, an amusing experience. In this book are the collector friends each of us have—good, bad and indifferent—but of another land and era; in it are the rare finds and the disappointing losses, the struggle to define one's field and to arrange one's materials, the frustration of discovering a richer collection, and the deep satisfaction in watching one's own work grow in stature. The book is frank and at times critical. The author condemns with equal vigor the overly-possessive person who hides his treasures from other collectors, the careless artist, and the apathy of the general public.

A review of its chapter headings is the best way to define the *Bréviaire*: "Birth and Development of the Scientific Study of Uniforms in France" (note he treats only with France, and with the *uniform* as first regulated in 1690—not with *military dress*), "Materials and Format of a Collection," "Classification and Preservation," "Bases of Documentation," "What is the Truth?" "The Quicksands of Reconstruction" (a compelling title), "Suggestions on Principal Sources" (of French uniforms, of course), "Memories of an old Collector," and "A Glance at the Future."

Only 500 copies of the *Bréviaire* have been published.

It is being produced without profit to the author. Our advice to all serious collectors is to brush up on their French and read this thought-provoking and informative book. Copies can be secured direct from Commandant E.-L. Bucquoy, 13 rue de la Ravinelle, Nancy, France.

★ ★ ★

Member C. E. Dornbusch, Special Assistant in Government Documents for The New York Public Library, has written us:

It is a pleasure to report that there is now available in America a checklist of all the British regimental histories. Unpublished, it is the work of Mr. White, Librarian of the War Office. Arrangements for microfilming were made when I was in London. Paper enlargements have been made and are now in my personal possession. Another set was made for Mrs. John Nicholas Brown.

The arrangement of the list is by order of precedence. The British custom is followed by entering Fencibles, Militia, Volunteers, and Yeomanry under the counties of origin. The list also includes Disbanded units, Colonial, Foreign Corps in British pay, Marines and Bodyguards. The original volume has over a hundred folio pages with the principal text on the recto of the leaves. Some titles are inserted on the verso of the leaves.

The list has approximately 1700 titles but does not include Divisions and Brigades as Mr. White dismisses these organizations as amorphous.

★ ★ ★

For some while we have intended to mention *United States Navy Uniform Regulations, 1951* (NAVPERS 15665 [REV-51]). This very detailed, heavily illustrated, carefully organized edition of the current naval dress regulations is not quite the collector's item that are its 19th century predecessors with their colored plates, but it is most useful nonetheless. Here in one large loose-leaf volume is contained all that one can desire on the subject; how different from the scattered, indifferently illustrated regulations covering the uniforms of the Army. Available at the Government Printing Office for \$1.50.

WAR ON THE SILVER SCREEN

During the past three months three war pictures worthy of comment in these columns have been shown in theatres across the country.

The first, *From Here to Eternity*, is excellently produced, directed and acted. As a document concerning the peace-time Army in Hawaii in 1940-1941, it presents a very black picture of conditions. Sports were over-emphasized in the Army at that time, and doubtless some company commanders were as unprincipled as indicated; but certainly situations were far from standard.

The Cruel Sea, based on Nicholas Montsarrat's novel of the same name is a fine motion picture in all respects. A tribute to the British Navy, it accurately depicts the crises faced by the green crew of the corvette *Compass Rose*, as they become a battle-hardened unit.

Finally, there is *Escape from Fort Bravo* which has won wide and deserved acclaim from critics as one of the best westerns in years. It is indeed a fine story, beautifully photographed in color against the striking scenery of Death Valley. Unfortunately, however, there apparently was no technical adviser, and the mistakes in military dress and equipment are enough to make any student of the subject wince. The scene is set for 1863, yet the uniforms date from the 1870's, and somehow cavalry officers turn up wearing silver buttons. The arms include 1873 carbines and single-action Colt (with hard rubber grips!). In fact, the only firearm of the period that this reviewer was able to find was a pepper-box pistol flashed briefly from a stagecoach window. The sabers in the film are correct for period but worn on the near side of the horse instead of on the waist-belt of the trooper. Aside from these and many other technical mistakes too numerous to mention, the picture is indeed excellent with some of the best Indian action shots yet filmed.

Robert Walker Davis

COMPANY OF MILITARY COLLECTORS & HISTORIANS

INCORPORATED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

PRESIDENT: COL. HARRY C. LARTER, JR.; VICE-PRESIDENTS: MRS. JOHN NICHOLAS BROWN, H. CHARLES MC BARRON, JR., RAYMOND L. J. RILING

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: COL. FREDERICK P. TODD; CONSULTING EDITOR: HAROLD L. PETERSON

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: TOM PARKER; ASSISTANT EDITORS: ROBERT W. DAVIS, R. L. MILLER;

SECRETARY: CAPT. CHARLES WEST; TREASURER: MRS. JOHN NICHOLAS BROWN

ASSISTANT TO THE TREASURER: MRS. M. H. RYAN; CURATOR: HARRY WANDRUS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: HARRISON K. BIRD, JR., MRS. JOHN NICHOLAS BROWN, MAJ. J. DUNCAN CAMPBELL, DETMAR H. FINKE, COL. HARRY C. LARTER, MAJ. JOHN H. MAGRUDER, III, H. CHARLES MC BARRON, JR., ROBERT L. MILLER, TOM PARKER, HAROLD L. PETERSON, COL. FREDERICK P. TODD, CAPT. CHARLES WEST.

Address all correspondence to Captain Charles West,
care TIME Inc., 9 Rockefeller Plaza, N. Y. 20, N. Y.

